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24 September, 2010

Dear Doctor,

Local Cases of Dengue Fever - update

Further to our letter dated 21 September, we would like to draw your attention to four suspected local cases of dengue fever under investigation in Hong Kong and the revised definition of our enhanced surveillance for dengue fever.

Three of the suspected local cases of dengue fever reported to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) today are the sons (8 years old and 18 years old) and wife of the 46-year-old man confirmed to have acquired dengue fever locally earlier. The sons had symptoms of fever 6/9/2010 and 13/9/2010 respectively and the wife also recalled today to have headache and skin rash in early September 2010. Blood samples taken from them were positive for dengue virus IgM. Further laboratory testing including polymerase chain reaction is pending. The younger son is studying at Bradbury Junior School at Stubbs Road.

Another suspected local case of dengue fever involved a two-year-old girl who is a neighbour of the 46-year-old man. She developed fever and abdominal pain on 31/8/2010 and recovered after consulting a general practitioner. All her other household contacts including her parents, two sisters and two domestic helpers were asymptomatic. Her blood samples taken on 22/9/2010 were positive for dengue virus IgM but negative for dengue virus by polymerase chain reaction. Blood samples taken from her mother and two domestic helpers were tested negative. She is studying in ESF International Kindergarten (Hillside) at Stubbs Road but she did not go to school during the period when she was having a fever.



All of these four patients did not travel out of Hong Kong during the incubation period. Further confirmatory blood tests would be arranged. Epidemiological investigations around the places where they were staying are ongoing.

Vector surveillance and vector control measures are being carried out in Deep Water Bay, schools attended by the two children and the areas where the patients have

visited. The CHP will distribute questionnaires to the children attending the schools and the people living nearby and blood tests will be arranged if necessary.

In view of the situation, the CHP has revised the definition of the enhanced surveillance on suspected cases of dengue fever with effect from 24 September 2010 to 6 October 2010. Definition for the enhanced surveillance for dengue fever are:

- 1) A person presented with acute febrile illness with **two or more** of the following features: headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, haemorrhagic manifestations or leucopenia **AND**
- 2) History of visiting the following places within the incubation period (two weeks before onset of symptoms):
 - Deep Water Bay or Middle Island; OR
 - Hillside International Kindergarten at 43 Stubbs Road (司徒拔道的英基國際幼稚園 (曉新)) and nearby buildings*:

For suspected cases of dengue fever fulfilling the above two criteria, please arrange blood test for dengue fever and report the case to Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Please also call Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 outside office hour for prompt investigation. For febrile patients fulfilling both criteria above, please arrange hospital admission for further management. For arrangement of specimens to PHLSB, please visit <http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-specimenhandbook-en-2004122803.pdf> for further information.

A designated CHP website for dengue fever is now available at http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/21939.html. You may visit the website for more information.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. S.K. CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection

Department of Health

*including Bradbury Junior School (白普理小學), Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten at No. 15 Stubbs Road, and No. 7 Tung Shan Terrace (司徒拔道15號和司徒拔道東山臺7號: 嶺南小學暨幼稚園), No. 24, 43-46 Stubbs Road(司徒拔道24, 43-46號), No 1-82 Mount Nicholson Road (聶歌信山道1-82號) and No. 5-6 Tung Shan Terrace (東山臺5-6號)